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STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal

DATE: April 27, 2010

SUBJECT: **S.A.F.E. Funded Fire Safety Houses**

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The Executive Office of Public Safety through the Department of Fire Services has purchased one fire safety house for each of the fifteen fire mobilization districts in the state. Local fire departments may utilize these units to augment their public fire and life safety education programs. Each district determines the host community and the policies and procedures for use, scheduling, training and transport.

In this fiscal year (2010), we will complete the fifth and final year of replacing all original 15 fire safety houses. In some cases this has allowed the district to have two units available for use, which was encouraged by our agency. The condition of the old unit was the determining factor.

The practical hands-on activities reinforce the lessons firefighters; specially trained as public fire and life safety educators, teach in the classroom. This fun, make-believe exercise prepares children to react safely and appropriately in case of an actual emergency. Having the children demonstrate how to react when a smoke alarm sounds or when they see smoke or fire can be used as an evaluation instrument to assess their understanding of concepts and behaviors taught in the classroom.

The fire safety house is an educational tool used to teach fire prevention and fire survival in an interactive manner. It is equipped with a living room, kitchen, bedroom and control room. The living room has an electric fireplace, bench seating, a telephone and an exit door. The kitchen, where most home fires occur, is equipped with a sink, stove and cabinets. The second-floor bedroom is furnished with a small bed, a smoke detector and a sliding door that opens onto a porch with an escape ladder.

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In the control room, firefighters can operate a theatrical fog machine to “smoke” one or all rooms in the house. Children are instructed to “crawl low beneath the smoke” as they exit to safety. Along the way they check the bedroom door for heat with the back of their hand. If the door feels warm they use their second way out and descend the fire escape ladder. Once safely outside they proceed to the meeting place.

The phone system can be used to simulate a 9-1-1 emergency call to a dispatch center. Children are instructed to give their name, the address and type of emergency and to stay on the phone until they are told to hang up. Each room has a video camera and allows parents to view the children from outside on a television monitor.

Below is a list of the district safety houses purchased with S.A.F.E. grant funding. These units are available to you through the host community. Their contact information is listed.

### **List of S.A.F.E. Funded Regional Fire Safety Houses**

#### **District # Home Site / Contact District Communities**

<b>District One</b> Falmouth Chief Paul D. Brodeur (508) 495-2500  Deputy Mark Sullivan (508) 495-2512	Barnstable (Barnstable, West Barnstable, Hyannis, Centerville/Osterville/Marston Mills, Cotuit), Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Gay Head, Gosnold, Harwich, Mashpee, Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Otis A.F.B., Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth
<b>District Two</b> Hanson Chief Jerome A. Thompson Jr. (781) 293-9571	Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Marshfield, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Norwell, Onset, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Scituate, Wareham, West Bridgewater, and Whitman
<b>District Three</b> Fall River Chief Paul Ford (508) 324-2743	Acushnet, Attleboro, Berkley, Dartmouth (Districts #1, 2 & 3), Dighton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, New Bedford, North Attleboro, Norton, Plainville, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Taunton, Westport
<b>District Four</b> Mansfield Chief Neal A. Boldrighini (508) 261-7493	Avon, Bellingham, Canton, Dover, Easton, Foxborough, Franklin, Holbrook, Mansfield, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Westwood, and Wrentham

<b>District Five</b> Danvers Chief Kevin Farrell (978) 774-2425	Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Swampscott, Topsfield, and Wenham
<b>District Six</b> Lowell Chief Edward J. Pitta or Lt. Larry LeDoux (978) 551-7946	Andover, Ayer, Bedford, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Lowell, North Reading, Pepperell, Shirley, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford, and Wilmington
<b>District Seven</b> Worcester Chief Gerald Dio (508) 779-1820Lt. Anne Pickett (508) 799-1754	Auburn, Blackstone, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Grafton, Leicester, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Warren, Webster, West Brookfield, and Worcester
<b>District Eight</b> Fitchburg Chief Kevin D. Roy (978) 345-9666 (Tow vehicle no longer available)	Ashburnham, Ashby, Barre, Berlin, Bolton, Boylston, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Hardwick, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, New Braintree, Oakham, Paxton, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Rutland, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, West Boylston, Westminster, and Winchendon
<b>District Nine</b> Orange Chief Dennis Annear (978) 544-3145	Ashfield, Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Erving, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately
<b>District Ten</b> South Hadley #1 Chief William Judd, (413) 533-7111	Amherst, Belchertown, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, Southampton, South Hadley, Ware, Williamsburg, Westhampton, and Worthington
<b>District Eleven</b> Three Rivers Chief Patrick J. O'Connor (413) 283-7161	Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Southwick, Springfield, Three Rivers, Tolland, Wales, Westfield, West Springfield, and Wilbraham

<b>District Twelve</b> Lanesboro Chief Charles A. Durfee (413) 443-2321	Adams, Alford, Becket, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Florida, Great Barrington, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlborough, North Adams, Otis, Peru, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sandisfield, Stockbridge, Savoy, Sheffield, Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge, Williamstown, and Windsor
<b>District Thirteen</b> Reading Chief Gregory J. Burns (781) 944-3132	Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Dedham, Everett, Lexington, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Needham, Newton, Quincy, Reading, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston, Weymouth, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn, and Massport
<b>District Fourteen</b> Acton Chief Robert C. Craig (978) 264-9645	Acton, Ashland, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Framingham, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Milford, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westborough
<b>District Fifteen</b> Amesbury Chief Jonathan R. Brickett (978) 388-1333	Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury

There are other fire safety houses in the Commonwealth that were not funded through this program located at the Boston, Bridgewater, North Andover, Kingston/Duxbury, Woburn, Gardner, Longmeadow/East Longmeadow, Lincoln, and Seekonk Fire Departments. Generally, these are for use only within the community. Please contact the fire education unit or fire chief on how to access them.